

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 12226 291734Z

20

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 291727Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1776
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

CONFIDENTIAL BONN 12226

EXDIS

HELSINKI FOR- ASST SEC HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, US, EG

SUBJECT: CREDIT TO EGYPT

REF: BONN 10940

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH FINANCE MINISTRY STATE
SECRETARY POEHL LAST WEEK, AMBASSADOR ASKED POEHL
ABOUT STATUS OF GERMAN CONSIDERATION OF CREDIT
FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT. IN RESPONSE
POEHL TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE WAS NOT INFORMED
OF ANY CONSIDERATION OF THE QUESTION AT THE MOMENT.
POEHL DID, HOWEVER, GO TO GREAT LENGTHS TO DESCRIBE
THE DIFFICULTIES THE FRG WOULD HAVE IN FINANCING
ASSISTANCE. THE ONLY POSSIBILITY HE COULD SEE
WOULD BE AN ADDITIONAL GRANT OF CAPITAL ASSISTANCE TO
THE EGYPTIANS IN ADDITION TO THE 500 MILLION DM
ACCORDED LAST YEAR FOR THE 1974/6 PERIOD. HE
MENTIONED IN THAT CONNECTION THAT EGYPT WAS
ALREADY SECOND (AFTER INDIA) RECIPIENT
OF GERMAN CAPITAL ASSISTANCE. POEHL SAID THAT
HE WAS ALSO UNAWARE OF WHAT FRG WOULD BE DOING
WITH OTHER COMMUNITY MEMBERS ON THIS SUBJECT.

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2. THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL MINISTER HAD ALREADY

RAISED THE SUBJECT WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY
HISSE, SENIOR ECONOMIC ADVISER IN THE CHANCELLERY
ON JULY 17. HISSE ALSO SAID THAT HE WAS COMPLETELY
UNINFORMED AS TO WHAT WAS GOING ON IN THE
GOVERNMENT.

3. DURING CONVERSATION ON JULY 29 WITH HERMES,
ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL
MINISTER WAS AGAIN TOLD THAT HERMES KNEW NOTHING ABOUT
CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN THE EGYPTIAN QUESTION.

4. COMMENT: IT IS, OF COURSE, POSSIBLE THAT THE
CHANCELLOR IS HANDLING THIS MATTER VERY CLOSE TO
HIS CHEST AND EVEN SENIOR OFFICIALS MAY BE RETICENT
ABOUT DISCUSSING THE MATTER. WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION,
HOWEVER, THAT THE QUESTION MAY NOT BE RECEIVING
URGENT CONSIDERATION WITHIN THE FRG. IF AN OCCASION
PRESENTS ITSELF ON THE MARGIN OF THE HELSINKI SUMMIT,
AN EXPRESSION OF OUR CONTINUING INTEREST IN A MAXIMUM
FRG EFFORT IN MAKING AVAILABLE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT
MIGHT BE HELPFUL.

HILLENBRAND

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